

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-71. (Canceled)

72. (Currently Amended) A tissue cutting instrument, comprising:

an outer member;

an inner member received within the outer member; and

a ~~tubular~~ cutter coupled to the inner and the outer members such that rotation of the inner member about an axis causes off-axis movement of the cutter, the cutter including a lumen having two open ends, the lumen having an axis extending between the two open ends of the lumen,

wherein the cutter comprises first and second protruding shafts having centers located 180° apart from each other along an outer surface of the cutter, the shafts being aligned transverse to the lumen axis, and

wherein the first shaft comprises a plurality of teeth extending from an outer circumference of the first shaft.

73. (Canceled)

74. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 72 wherein the inner member includes a plurality of teeth on its distal end, and the teeth of the first shaft of the cutter engage with the teeth of the inner member to move the cutter.

75. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 74 wherein the inner member rotates axially and the cutter rotates in a direction perpendicular to the direction of rotation of the inner member.

76. (Canceled)

77. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 37 wherein the shearing of the tissue occurs against the surface of the cutter and against the other surface of the tissue-cutting instrument.

78. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 48 wherein the shearing of the tissue occurs against the surface of the cutter and against the surface of the outer member.

79. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 1, wherein a maximum tangential speed of the cutter is at a center of cutting action.

80. (Canceled)

81. (Currently Amended) A tissue cutting instrument, comprising:  
an outer member;  
an inner member received within the outer member; and  
a generally spherical cutter coupled to the inner and the outer members such that rotation of the inner member about an axis causes off-axis movement of the cutter,  
wherein the cutter comprises a first shaft and a second shaft, the first shaft protruding from a first surface portion of the cutter and the second shaft protruding from a second surface portion of the cutter, the first surface portion and the second surface portion being opposing surface portions such that centers of the first and second shafts are located 180° apart from each other along an outer surface of the cutter, and wherein the first shaft comprises a plurality of teeth extending from an outer circumference of the first shaft.

82. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 81, wherein the cutter defines a through bore having an axis extending between open ends of the through bore and the first shaft and the second shaft are aligned transverse to the through bore axis.

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83-86. (Canceled)